CLAIMS

1.   The use of an effective inhibitor of a bacterial α-amylase and/or α-glucosidase in the manufacture of a composition for the treatment of acidosis.

2.   The use according to claim 1 for the treatment of chronic acidosis.

5   3.   The use according to claim 1 for the treatment of acute acidosis.

4.   The use according to any one of claims 1,2 or 3 where the inhibitor of bacterial α-amylase and/or α-glucosidase has an IC_{50} of $10^{-3}M$ or less.

5.   The use according to any one of claims 1,2, 3 or 4 wherein the inhibitor is selected from one of the inhibitors mentioned here in relation to preferred inhibitors.

10   6.   The use according to claim 5 wherein the inhibitor is selected from acarbose and the higher homologues thereof, Trestatin A, Trestatin C, the compound of Fraction 21 of Example 7 herein, Example 8 herein, and the fermentation broth products mentioned herein.

7.   The use according to claim 6 wherein the inhibitor is selected from acarbose and the higher homologues thereof, Trestatin A, Trestatin C, the compound of Fraction 21 of Example 7 herein and the compound of Example 8 herein.

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8.   The use according to claim 7 wherein the inhibitor is selected from acarbose and Trestatin C.

9.   A method of treatment of rumen acidosis which comprises administration of an effective amount of an effective inhibitor of a bacterial α-amylase and/or α-glucosidase to a ruminant.

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10.   A method according to claim 9 for the treatment of chronic acidosis.

11.   A method according to claim 9 for the treatment of acute acidosis.

12.   A method according to any one of claims 9, 10 or 11 where the inhibitor of bacterial α-amylase and/or α-glucosidase has an IC_{50} of $10^{-3}M$ or less.

25   13.   A method according to any one of claims 1, 10, 11 or 12 wherein the inhibitor is selected from one of the inhibitors mentioned here in relation to preferred inhibitors.

14.   A method according to claim 13 wherein the inhibitor is selected from acarbose and the higher homologues thereof, Trestatin A, Trestatin C, the compound of Fraction 21 of Example 7 herein, Example 8 herein, and the fermentation broth products

30   mentioned herein.

15.   A method according to claim 14 wherein the inhibitor is selected from acarbose and the higher homologues thereof, Trestatin A, Trestatin C, the compound of Fraction 21 of Example 7 herein and the compound of Example 8 herein.

16.   A method according to claim 15 wherein the inhibitor is selected from

35   acarbose and Trestatin C.

17.   A formulation suitable for the treatment of acidosis in an animal which comprises an effective inhibitor of a bacterial α-amylase and/or α-glucosidase in admixture

with a suitable excipient, diluent or carrier selected with regard to the intended route of administration and standard pharmaceutical / veterinary / farming practice.

18.   A formulation according to claim 17 wherein the inhibitor is selected from those mentioned in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8.

19.   The use of any one or more of the screen methods described herein in the identification of a suitable inhibitor of a bacterial α-amylase and/or α-glucosidase for the treatment of acidosis in a ruminant.

20.   A process for improving ruminant milk quality and/or quantity which comprises treatment of a ruminant with an effective amount of an inhibitor of bacterial α-amylase and/or α-glucosidase.

21.   A process according to claim 20 wherein the inhibitor is as defined in any one of claims 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8.

22.   A compound of the formula I:
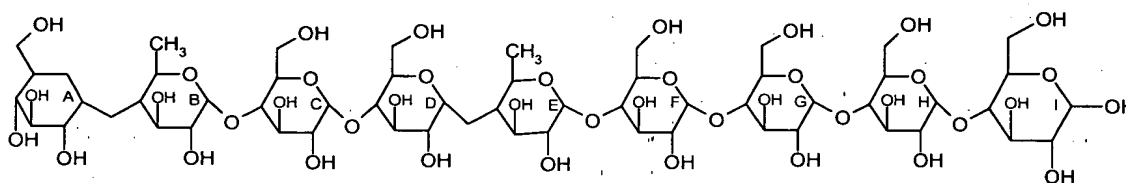
or veterinarily acceptable salt, solvate (including hydrate) or prodrug thereof.

23.   The compound of formula I according to claim 22 for use in medicine.

24.   The compound of formula I according to claim 22 for use in treatment of acidosis in a ruminant.

25.   A process to make an effective inhibitor of a bacterial α-amylase and/or α-glucosidase useful for the treatment of acidosis in a ruminant as described herein in relation to any of the Examples.